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**Imagery analysis report**

## **Summary of Ground Forces Activity Chengdu Military Region, China**

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25X1**SUMMARY OF GROUND FORCES ACTIVITY, CHENGDU MILITARY REGION  
CHINA,**

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**ABSTRACT**

1. (S) This report summarizes the ground forces activity of main force units and selected independent regiments in the Chengdu Military Region of China from [redacted]. This report contains seven photographs, three maps, and three tables listing unit locations.

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**INTRODUCTION**

2. [redacted] Ground forces activity in the Chengdu Military Region (MR) during the period [redacted] consisted of participation by two armies of the MR in the Sino-Vietnamese conflict, antiaircraft artillery (AAA) exercises, and the transfer of two infantry divisions (independent); three new, independent regiments were identified. Activity in Sichuan and Xizang Military Districts (MD) will be discussed separately because of the difference in units involved.

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25X1**Sichuan Military District**

3. [redacted] Activity observed in the Sichuan MD (Figures 1 through 4) consisted of deployment for, participation in, and return from the Sino-Vietnamese conflict by the 13th and 50th Armies and an apparent upgrading of the 50th Army during the post-conflict period. The involvement of the 13th and 50th Armies in the Sino-Vietnamese conflict will not be discussed since it has been covered adequately in other studies.<sup>1-3</sup> Selected independent regiments in the Sichuan MD were monitored during the period. An independent tank regiment continued to expand, and three motor transport (MT) regiments were newly identified. One large and several minor AAA exercises were observed during the reporting period.

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**13th Army**

4. [redacted] The 13th Army was believed to have deployed from the Chengdu MR in early January 1979, [redacted] Imagery of the 116th Artillery Regiment, 13th Army, and the 319th Artillery Regiment, 39th Infantry Division, 13th Army on [redacted] showed a very low level of activity and empty vehicle/artillery storage sheds, indicating that these units may have vacated their garrisons by that date. No imagery of other 13th Army installations was available until after the 13th Army's presence on the Sino-Vietnamese border had been [redacted] This later imagery confirmed that the garrison installations had been vacated.

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5. [redacted] With the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Vietnamese territory by [redacted] the 13th Army began a gradual withdrawal to Chengdu MR. The army withdrew initially to the Mengzi area (23-22N 103-24E), Kunming MR, where it was observed between mid-March and mid-April. The first 13th Army unit to return to Chengdu MR was the 38th Infantry Division. It was observed on imagery and [redacted] to have returned to its garrison area between [redacted] and mid-June 1979. The 37th and 39th Infantry Divisions, the 116th Artillery Regiment, and the 13th Army Headquarters elements were noted back in garrison between July and mid-August 1979, though they probably returned earlier.

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6. [redacted] The confirmation of the return of the 13th Army to its prewar garrison areas presented several problems. Activity levels in 13th Army installations are characteristically low, making confirmation of its presence or absence difficult to discern on imagery. Except for the 318th Artillery Regiment of the 38th Infantry Division, equipment is rarely seen at the 13th Army installations. Holdings for 13th Army units were incomplete with two infantry regiments still unlocated.

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7. [redacted] The greatest amount of equipment probably associated with the 13th Army was seen at Mengzi on [redacted] Major elements of an AAA regiment, an artillery regiment, an engineering battalion, and a large number of cargo trucks were observed in the vicinity of a major rail junction northwest of the city. [redacted] A large number of flatcars was observed in the several railyards in the area. The 13th Army Headquarters was subsequently noted at Changshun (25-59N 106-25E) on 23 April, indicating the army had begun its return from Mengzi, probably by rail via Kunming and Guiyang, then north to Chongqing.<sup>5</sup>

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25X1**50th Army**

8. [redacted] The deployment of the 50th Army to the Sino-Vietnamese conflict was easier to ascertain. Imagery of mid-February 1979 showed 50th Army units to be in garrison. [redacted]

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**Table 1.**  
**Chengdu Main Force Armies**  
**(Items keyed to Figure 1)**

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Item	Unit	Installation/ BE/Coords	Remarks	Item	Unit	Installation/ BE/Coords	Remarks
<b>13th Army</b>							
1	13th Army Hq	Chongqing Army Hq	Normal low activity	—	Unid AAA Regt	Unlocated	Existence confirmed; AAA has been seen at Qionglai Army Bks AL-1
2	116th Arty Regt	29-32-30N 106-31-26E Tongliang Army Bks	Normal low activity sufficient storage for equipment	15	148th Inf Div Hq Unid AAA Bn Unid Engr Bn 442d Inf Regt 443d Inf Regt 444th Inf Regt 428th Arty Regt	Dayi Army Bks AL-1 30-35-41N 103-36-39E	Entire div at this installation
—	Unid AAA Regt	Unlocated	Existence unconfirmed				
3	37th Inf Div Hq Unid AAA Bn	Jiangjing Army Bks AL-1	Normal low activity	16	149th Inf Div Hq	Leshan Army Bks & Hq AL-1	Normal low activity
—	Unid Engr Bn	29-17-13N 106-15-49E Unlocated	Poss at item 3	—	Unid AAA Bn	29-34-00N 103-45-40E	
4	109th Inf Regt	Tongliang Bks Area	Normal low activity	—	Unid Engr Bn	Unlocated	Poss at item 9 (Emei Army Bks AL-1)
5	110th Inf Regt	29-50-56N 106-03-19E Bishan Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity	17	445th Inf Regt 446th Inf Regt	At item 16 Qianwei Army Bks SE AL-1	Normal low activity
6	111th Inf Regt	29-36-10N 106-13-25E Chongqing Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity	18	447th Inf Regt	29-09-31N 103-58-10E Ganluo Army Bks South	Normal low activity
7	317th Arty Regt	29-33-55N 106-26-00E Laifeng Army Bks AL-1	Normal low activity, 6 BM 14-17/19 MRL observed	19	429th Arty Regt	28-56-30N 102-46-35E Emei Army Bks AL-2	Arty regt hq; 2 arty bns
8	38th Inf Div Hq Unid AAA Bn	29-26-05N 106-11-30E Nanchong Army Bks & Inf Div Hq AL-1	Normal low activity	20	150th Inf Div Hq	29-32-40N 103-27-00E Emei Army Bks AL-1	Expanded in past 2 years
—	Unid Engr Bn	30-45-16N 106-03-40E Unlocated	Poss at item 8	21	Unid AAA Bn Unid Engr Bn	29-30-20N 103-30-40E Shifang Army Bks AL-1	Moderate activity
9	112th Inf Regt 113th Inf Regt	At item 8 Langzhong Army Bks	Normal low activity	22	448th Inf Regt 449th Inf Regt 450th Inf Regt	31-09-10N 104-01-10E Mianyang Army Bks & Storage Area AL-1	Moderate activity Moderate activity Normal low activity; prob ZPU-2 AAHMGS observed here
10	114th Inf Regt 318th Arty Regt 39th Inf Div Hq	31-35-29N 105-57-42E At item 8 At item 9 Neijiang Inf Div Hq & Army Bks AL-1	Normal low activity Arty normally observed Normal low activity	23	430th Arty Regt	31-28-58N 104-46-44E At item 20 At item 20 Ching-lien-chang Army Bks	Recent addition of bks & storage sheds for additional bn
11	Unid AAA Bn	29-32-19N 105-05-45E Neijiang Army Bks AL-3	Some AAA observed				
—	Unid Engr Bn	29-35-20N 105-04-50E Unlocated					
12	115th Inf Regt	Neijiang Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity; some ZPU-2 AAHMGS observed here				
—	116th Inf Regt	29-33-36N 105-04-40E Unlocated					
—	117th Inf Regt	Unlocated					
13	319th Arty Regt	Longchang Army Bks	Normal low activity; arty seen				
<b>50th Army</b>							
—	50th Army Hq	Unlocated	Chengdu city area				
14	153d Arty Regt	Qionglai Army Bks AL-2	Arty regt hq; 1 arty bn				
		30-24-45N 103-27-35E Qionglai Army Bks AL-1	2 arty bns; unid trans unit				
		30-23-10N 103-26-40E					

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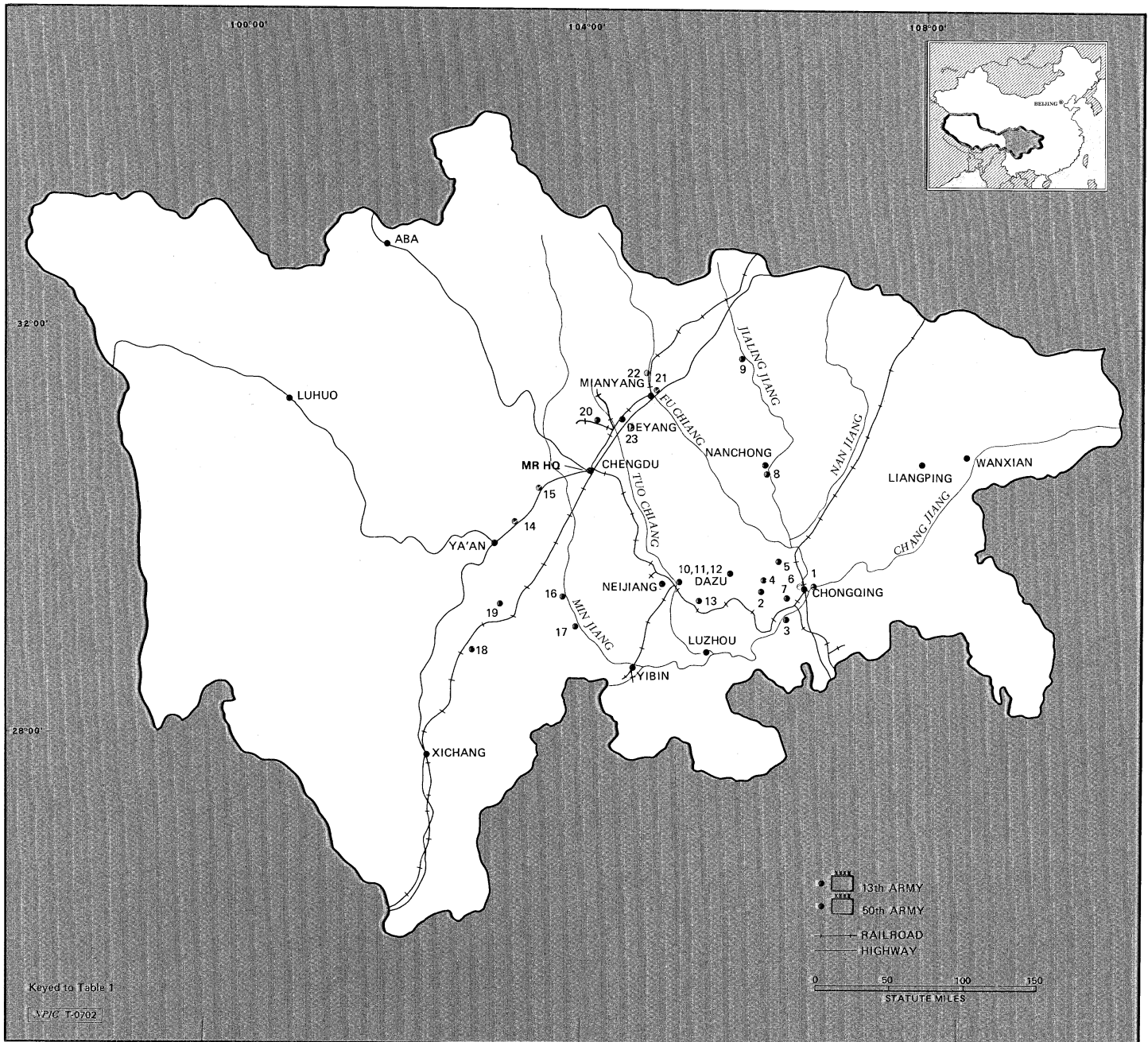


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF MAIN FORCE ARMIES, SICHUAN MILITARY DISTRICT, CHENGDU MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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9. [REDACTED] The 148th and 150th Infantry Divisions of the 50th Army deployed southeast to the Guangzhou MR. Imagery of [REDACTED] confirmed the vacating of three 50th Army installations. These two infantry divisions were joined on the Sino-Vietnamese border by the 58th Infantry Division, 20th Army (Wuhan MR), to cover the withdrawal of Chinese forces from Vietnam.<sup>1</sup>

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10. [REDACTED] The 50th Army units were noted on imagery [REDACTED] to have returned to their Chengdu MR garrison areas during June and July 1979. Elements of the 150th Infantry Division may have returned as early as late March. Imagery of [REDACTED] of the 430th Artillery Regiment showed approximately 400 personnel congregating near the headquarters area and walking into the facility from the main road, indicating that elements of the 430th Artillery Regiment might have returned before their equipment. The equipment was observed back in garrison when the area was next imaged three and one-half months later.

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11. [REDACTED] The 150th Infantry Division appears to have undergone significant upgrading in the post-conflict period. At Shifang Army Barracks AL-1 [REDACTED] housing the 448th and 449th Infantry Regiments and probably the division headquarters, a major expansion program was nearly complete in July 1980 (Figure 2). Additional construction consisted of a large administration area, a new regimental area, and an extensive training area. The original regimental area had been supplemented with increased training areas.

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12. [REDACTED] The 430th Artillery Regiment, 150th Infantry Division, also expanded its facilities and possibly its table of organization and equipment (TO&E) during the post-conflict period (Figure 3). A new battalion area, consisting of barracks and vehicle storage sheds, was nearly complete at the end of July 1980. It cannot be ascertained whether this new battalion area is to accommodate one of the existing battalions or is the addition of a fourth battalion. The 430th Artillery Regiment was also observed to have the new TO&E in the post-conflict period. Two howitzer battalions and one field artillery battalion were routinely observed; however, no multiple-rocket launchers have been observed.

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#### Selected Independent Regiments

13. (TSR) **Tank Regiment.** A tank regiment, the first and still only one identified in the Chengdu MR, is at Guankou Army Barracks [REDACTED]. This unit was battalion size (31 tanks) in December 1977 and had increased to regimental size (90 tanks) by August 1978 when it was identified. By December 1979, the unit had increased to 110 probable Type-62 tanks and 13 to 14 armored personnel carriers (Figure 5). By [REDACTED] ten armored vehicle sheds, totalling 78 bays, had been completed; two additional sheds, totalling 20 bays, were under construction. An average of 50 armored vehicles continued to be parked in open storage.

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14. [REDACTED] This regiment is currently held as an independent tank regiment, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] Although the regiment is in the middle of the 50th Army area, there is no indication that it is subordinate to the 50th Army.

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15. [REDACTED] **Motor Transport Regiments.** There are six identified main force motor transport (MT) regiments in the Chengdu MR, one in Lhasa and five in the Sichuan MD (Figure 4 and Table 2). The 13th (Figure 6), 18th, 20th, and 27th MT Regiments operate between the Sichuan MD and the Xizang MD.<sup>8</sup> During the period [REDACTED] the garrison installations of two of these MT regiments were newly identified and subordination of two MT installations was determined.

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16. [REDACTED] Jiajiang MT Regiment and Barracks [REDACTED] housing the 18th MT Regiment, and Pujiang MT Regiment and Barracks [REDACTED] housing the 27th MT Regiment, were newly identified on imagery during the period (Figures 7 and 8). Both installations were in the late stages of construction. These regiments had been located in temporary vehicle parks prior to the construction of these installations.

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17. [REDACTED] Two MT installations (Figures 9 and 10), previously identified on imagery of 1975, in the Shapingba area of Chongqing were determined to house the 17th MT Regiment. [REDACTED]

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#### Antiaircraft Artillery Activity

18. [REDACTED] AAA exercises were observed on five occasions in the Sichuan MD during the period [REDACTED]. The exercises ranged from small-scale guidance-and-control training to a large-scale AAA exercise at a newly identified training area.<sup>10</sup>

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19. [REDACTED] Reanalysis of the exercise during late July and early August 1979 at Liangping Airfield/P [REDACTED] indicates the existence of a newly identified army-level AAA regiment in the garrison area of the 13th Army. The presence of an organic army-level AAA regiment at Liangping and the presence of major elements of an AAA regiment collocated with the 13th Army headquarters at

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Mengzi strongly suggest there is an army-level AAA regiment subordinate to the 13th Army, although no installation housing such a unit has yet been identified on imagery [REDACTED]. It cannot yet be determined if this constitutes an upgrading of the 13th Army or the identification of a previously existing unit. Another AAA exercise was observed underway at Liangping Airfield on [REDACTED] however the composition of the unit could not be determined due to poor image interpretability.

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20. [REDACTED] A large-scale AAA exercise was observed at the Chengdu Suspect Air Defense Activity (ADA) Training Facility [REDACTED] in early and mid-December 1979. A probable tactical AAA division consisting of three 100mm regiments and one 57mm regiment was present. Although not previously identified in the Chengdu MR, it could represent a new unit in the MR. In another area of this facility there was sufficient AAA equipment, configured in batteries, consistent with the TO&E for all the AAA equipment of a main force army. The presence of this AAA equipment in Xichang (27-53N 102-18E), 23 nautical miles (nm) north of the ADA training facility, before and after the exercise indicated that the AAA units were staged to and from the ADA training facility through Xichang. Trains carrying AAA equipment were noted in Xichang oriented north after the exercise. It is possible that all 50th Army AAA may have deployed south of the ADA training facility in November and returned to the 50th Army garrison area in December. Lack of satellite imagery over the Sichuan Basin during November and December precluded determining if any of the AAA units subordinate to the 50th Army were out of garrison.

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### Xizang Military District

21. [REDACTED] Ground forces activity in the Xizang Military District (Figure 11 and Table 3) during the period [REDACTED] consisted of the transfer of the 11th Infantry Division (independent) to the Xinjiang MR, the rotation of the 53d Infantry Division (independent) into the former operational area of the 11th Infantry Division, and an apparent upgrading of some of the border defense regiments in Xizang.

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22. [REDACTED] In late April and early May 1979, the 11th Infantry Division relocated to the Turpan area of Xinjiang, after 20 years in Xizang. [REDACTED]

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Imagery of May and June 1979 confirmed the vacating of garrison installations in the Xigaze area and the appearance of equipment in the former 11th Infantry Division garrison installations.

23. [REDACTED] The transfer of the 53d Infantry Division eastward from Xigaze resulted in an apparent upgrading of the responsibilities of some of the border defense regiments. During the 1980 [REDACTED]

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### Conclusion

24. [REDACTED] Ground forces activity in the Chengdu MR during the period [REDACTED] involved the participation of the two main force armies in the Sino-Vietnamese conflict, their return and training activities, and a general upgrading of some units. There was a realignment of units in Xizang and an upgrading in responsibilities. Several units were newly identified in the Sichuan MD.

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**Table 2.**  
**Selected Independent Regiments**  
**(Items keyed to Figure 4)**

*This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF [REDACTED]*

Item	Unit	Installation/ BE/Coords	Remarks
1	Unid Tank Regt (Independent)	Guankou Army Bks [REDACTED]	See text (Fig 5)
2	13th MT Regt (Independent)	31-02-48N 103-50-30E Chengdu Army Bks AL-1 [REDACTED]	Operates between Chengdu & Nyingchi, Xizang (Fig 6)
—	16th MT Regt (Independent)	30-31-56N 104-04-29E Lhasa Army MT Bks & Storage AL-7 [REDACTED]	Operates on the east/west highway within Xizang
3	17th MT Regt (Independent)	29-39-12N 091-03-12E Chongqing Army Bks [REDACTED]	See text (Fig 9)
		29-32-40N 106-29-35E Chongqing MT Bks & Storage Area WSW [REDACTED]	(Fig 10)
4	18th MT Regt (Independent)	29-32-00N 106-28-00E Jiajiang MT Regt & Bks [REDACTED]	New installation (Fig 7)
5	20th MT Regt (Independent)	29-43-50N 103-33-20E Tianquan MTR Transport DPO [REDACTED]	Operates between Yaan & Bomi, Xizang; elements in Yaan
6	27th MT Regt (Independent)	30-01-11N 102-50-10E Pujiang MT Regt & Bks [REDACTED]	New installation (Fig 8)
		30-12-40N 103-30-00E	

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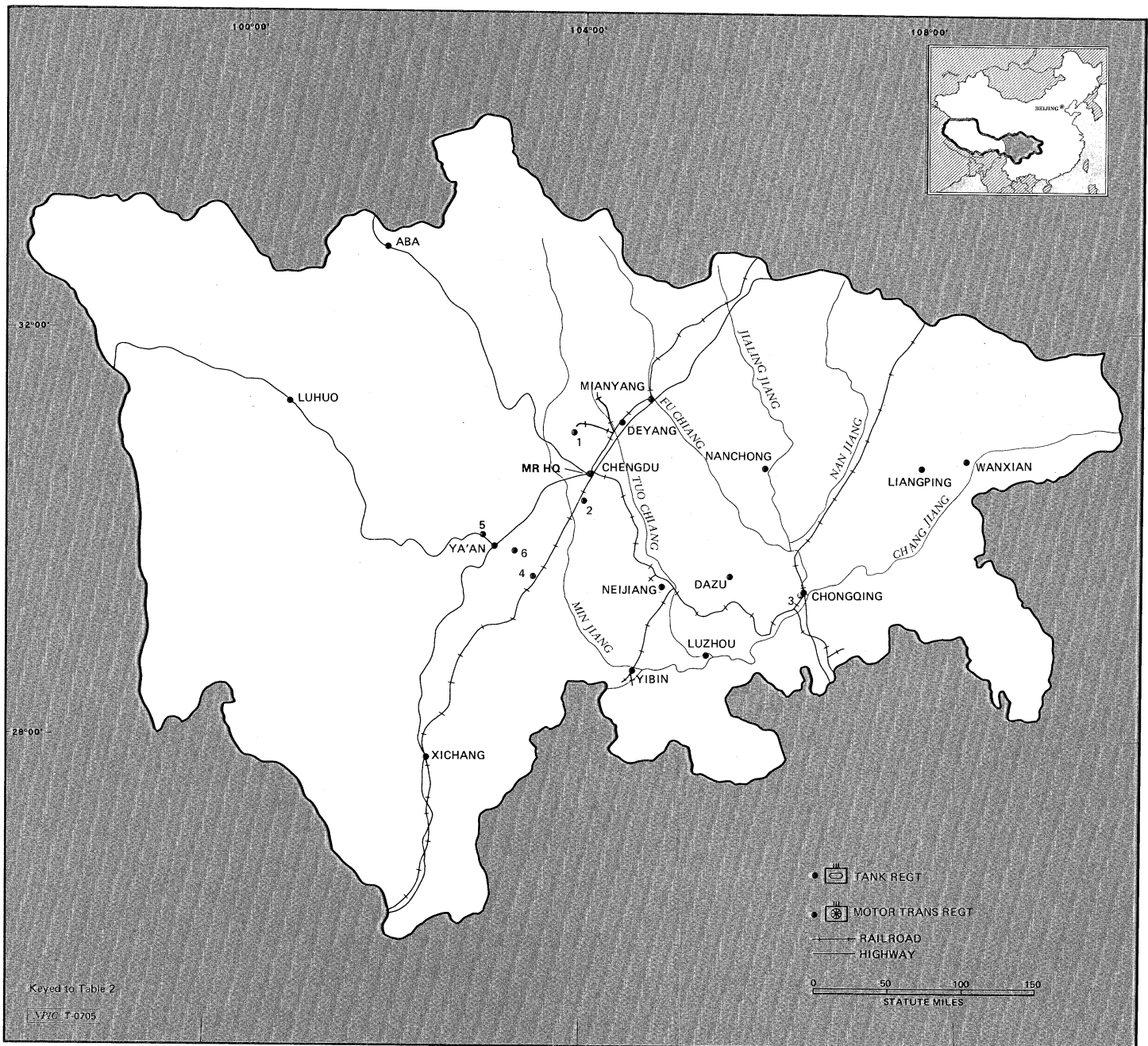


FIGURE 4. LOCATION OF SELECTED INDEPENDENT REGIMENTS, SICHUAN MILITARY DISTRICT

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Table 3.  
Xizang Military District, Chengdu Military Region, China  
(Items keyed to Figure 11)

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Item	Unit	Installation/ BE/Coords	Remarks
1	52d Inf Div Hq Unid AAA unit Unid MT unit	Tsu-mu-tsung Army Bks NW & Div Hq 29-45-34N 094-15-32E Ko-ta Army Bks AL-1	Normal moderate activity
2	154th Inf Regt	29-51-33N 095-45-57E Nyingchi Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity
3	155th Inf Regt	29-33-53N 094-29-06E Nyingchi Army Bks AL-1	Regt/Hq & 2 inf bns 1 inf bn
4	156th Inf Regt	29-29-51N 094-27-27E Qomo Army Bks DPO & Spt Area 29-40-28N 094-20-40E Dzem Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity
5	332d Arty Regt	29-48-49N 093-50-20E Langxian Army Bks AL-1	Regt/Hq & 2 arty bns; 1 arty bn at item 1
6	53d Inf Div Hq	29-06-02N 093-26-10E Mainling Army Bks AL-2	Normal low activity
7	Unid AAA Bn	29-11-20N 094-03-22E Gyaca Army Bks AL-1	Normal moderate activity
8	Unid Engr Bn	29-09-00N 092-39-00E Gonggar Ordnance Depot	Normal low activity
9	157th Inf Regt	29-16-47N 091-01-08E Kang-ko Bks Area	Normal moderate activity
10	158th Inf Regt	29-19-23N 094-23-30E O-lang Bks Area	Normal low activity
11	159th Inf Regt	29-08-20N 093-42-18E12 Gyaca Army Bks AL-3	Regt hq, 1 arty bn, 1 RL bn
12	333d Arty Regt	29-04-11N 092-49-54 Gyaca Army Bks AL-2 29-06-32N 092-42-04E Nangxian Bks Area	1 how bn 1 arty bn
13	1st BD Regt	29-03-15N 092-56-30E Zetang (29-16N 091-46E Lhunze (28-42N 092-24E)	
14	2d BD Regt	Coma (27-59N 091-25E)	
15	3d BD Regt	Gyirong (29-00N 085-15E) Tingri (28-35N 086-36E)	
16	4th BD Regt	Zayu (28-40N 097-31E)	
17	5th BD Regt	Zhongba (29-56N 083-40E)	
18	6th BD Regt	Xigaze (29-15N 088-53E) Yadong (27-29N 088-54E)	

Note: The border defense (BD) regiments are scattered in company-sized units in the areas listed above.

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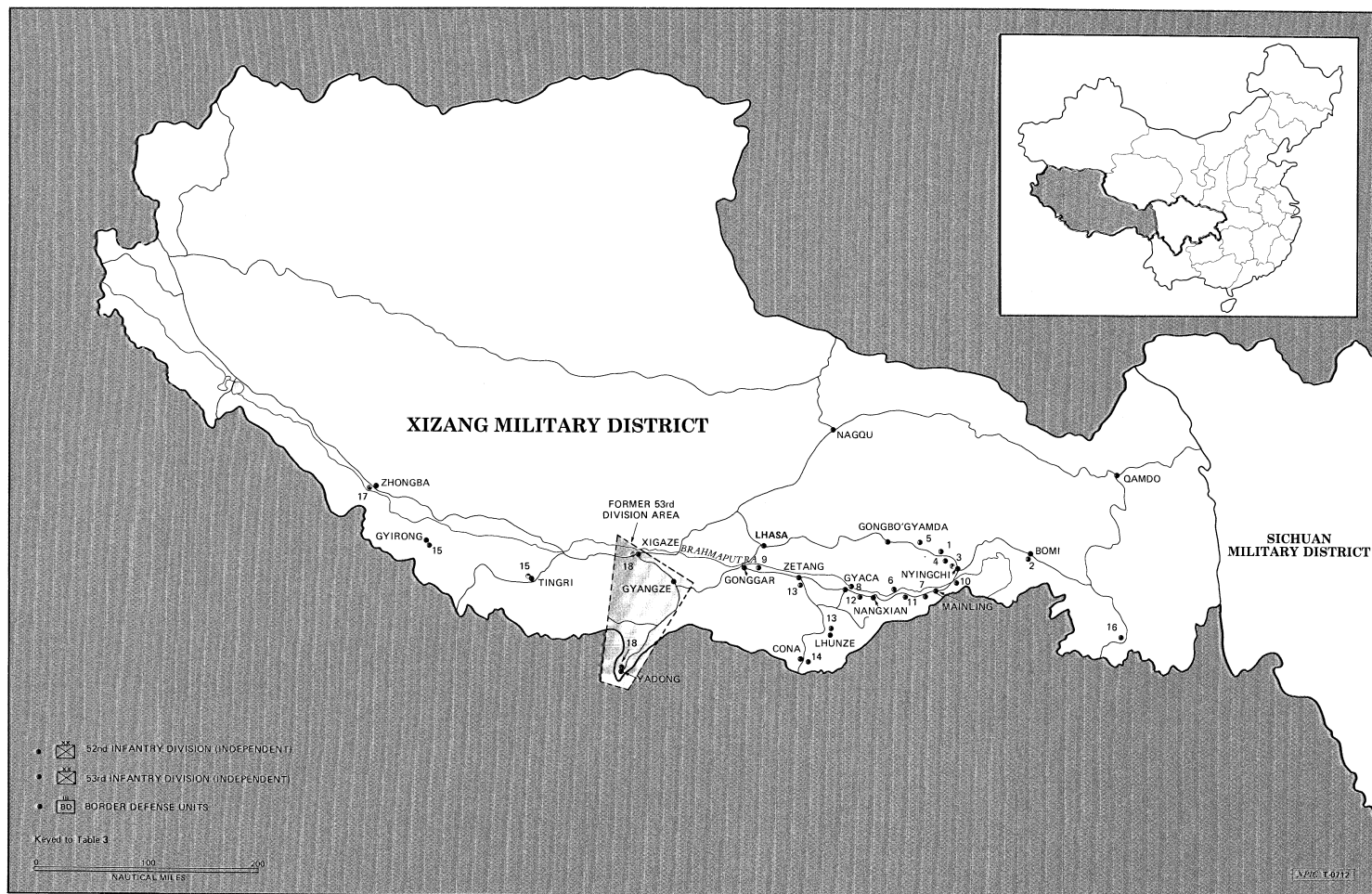


FIGURE 11. LOCATION OF UNITS IN XIZANG MILITARY DISTRICT, CHENGDU MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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